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Use of pharmaceutical combinations for treating benign prostatic hyperplasia or for treating abacterial prostatitis

Description

5 The present invention relates to a pharmaceutical combination containing the active substances meloxicam and tamsulosin. The combination according to the invention is suitable for the treatment of prostatic hyperplasia or for the treatment of abacterial prostatitis.

10 Background to the invention

BPH, a benign, non-cancerous enlargement of the prostate, is a well-known complaint in men, which generally comes to medical attention from the age of 50 onwards. About 50% of all men aged over 50 and 95% of all men aged over 70 are
15 affected by it.

BPH is a generally progressive condition which in serious cases may endanger kidney function and require surgical intervention. The number of untreated patients runs at over 37 million worldwide. The growth of the prostate compresses or
20 lengthens the urethra, causing the symptoms of ureteral blockage and possibly leading to urinary retention.

The prostate consists of epithelial glandular tubes embedded in fibromuscular stroma. The hyperplastic growth of the prostate begins at about the age of 30 in the
25 periurethrally located parts of the gland, the so-called transition zone. Apart from the effects of ageing, androgenic hormones constitute a crucial stimulus to growth in the

post-pubertal regulation of the volume of the gland. In the normal prostate, the enzyme 5 α -reductase in the epithelial cells converts the androgenic hormone testosterone (T) into dihydrotestosterone (DHT). DHT, an active androgenic prostate metabolite, binds to cytoplasmic receptors and is transported into the cell nucleus where it initiates RNA and protein synthesis and cell replication. It is assumed that BPH occurs in response to the effects of DHT on the ageing prostate and to changes in the stroma and epithelial cells (Steers, Zorn, *Dis. Mon.*, 41(7):437-497 (1995)).

Age-dependent changes in the serum concentrations of the hormonal regulatory circuit as a whole (LH, FSH, SHGB, T and DHT) and of other hormones which may affect this regulatory circuit (oestrogens, prolactin, testosterone derivatives), have been investigated as possible causes. However, there is no correlation between these age-dependent hormonal changes in the serum and the intraprostatic hormone concentrations. Thus, it is clear that the prostate itself is responsible for regulating the hormonal milieu.

Possible points of attack for controlling the intraprostatic hormonal milieu are the 5 α -reductase (i.e. the androgen metabolism), the hormone receptor expression in the epithelium and stroma, oestrogens and other hormones. In addition, numerous peptidal growth factors have a paracrine or autocrine effect on the local metabolism in the various compartments of the gland, by means of which the equilibrium of the cell kinetics can be shifted between proliferation and programmed cell death.

The clinical symptoms of BPH include both blocking symptoms (e.g. stoppage of the stream of urine, a weak or interrupted stream, urinary retention) which result directly from the constriction of the neck of the bladder and the prostatic urethra by the hyperplastic prostate, and also symptoms of an irritated lower urinary tract (e.g. urinary frequency, nycturia, dysuria, uresiesthesis, urinary incontinence). Untreated, BPH may lead to serious complications of the urinary tract and kidneys such as e.g. acute urinary retention and hydronephrosis (uronephrosis).

Tamsulosin hydrochloride is an α -receptor blocker and is used as a monosubstance for treating functional symptoms of prostatic hyperplasia (BPH). In addition,

tamsulosin hydrochloride is also used as a monosubstance for treating abacterial prostatitis, as has been demonstrated by clinical trials, at least in sub-populations.

The synthesis of tamsulosin and the acid addition salts thereof was first described in European Patent No. EP 34432, to which reference is hereby made.

A suitable sustained-release formulation is disclosed for example in US Patent No. 4,772,475, to which reference is also made.

Meloxicam or (4-hydroxy-2-methyl-N-(5-methyl-2-thiazolyl)-2H-1,2-benzothiazine-3-carboxamide-1,1-dioxide) belongs to the NSAIDs (non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs). It is known for its antirheumatic properties and is well tolerated by the stomach in the doses required for therapy. The active substance and its sodium salt as well as the N-methyl-D-glucamine salt (meglumine salt) thereof are described in EP 0 002 482 and its counterpart US Patent No. 4,233,299. The anti-inflammatory and pain-relieving properties of meloxicam also make this active substance very valuable for use in the treatment of pain.

Orally administered solid pharmaceutical preparations containing meloxicam, from which the active substance is rapidly released and reabsorbed, have been described previously (WO 99/49867), as well as orally administered syrup formulations (WO 99/49845) and highly concentrated stable solutions (WO 01/97813).

As for the mechanism of activity, it has been established that meloxicam is a cyclooxygenase-2 (COX-2) and oxidoreductase inhibitor.

Meloxicam is also known from US Patent No. 6,440,963 for the treatment of neuromuscular functional disorders of the lower urinary tract.

Surprisingly, the combination according to the invention of tamsulosin, an acid addition salt thereof, particularly tamsulosin hydrochloride, and meloxicam, the sodium or meglumine salt thereof, is particularly suitable for the treatment of benign prostatic hyperplasia or for the treatment of abacterial prostatitis.

The combination according to the invention contains both active substances in a formulation which contains between 0.1 and 1.5 mg of tamsulosin hydrochloride and between 0.1 and 20 mg of meloxicam or the sodium or meglumine salt thereof. A solid pharmaceutical combination containing 0.2 to 0.8 mg of tamsulosin hydrochloride and 1 to 7.5 mg of meloxicam or the sodium or meglumine salt thereof is preferred. The active substances may be administered orally.

Suitable conventional preparations include, for example, inert conventional carriers and/or diluents, e.g. with corn starch, lactose, glucose, microcrystalline cellulose, magnesium stearate, polyvinylpyrrolidone, citric acid, tartaric acid, water, water/ethanol, water/glycerol, water/sorbitol, water/polyethyleneglycol, propyleneglycol, cetylstearylalcohol, carboxymethylcellulose or fatty substances such as hard fat or suitable mixtures thereof, incorporated in conventional galenic preparations such as plain or coated tablets, capsules, powders, suspensions or suppositories.

The active substances may be given orally in a wide variety of different dosage forms, for example, they may be formulated together with various pharmaceutically acceptable inert carriers in the form of tablets, capsules, pastilles, lozenges, hard sweets, powders, aqueous suspensions, elixirs, syrups and the like. Carriers of this kind comprise, for example, solid diluents or fillers, sterile aqueous media and various non-toxic organic solvents. In addition, oral formulations of this kind may be suitably sweetened and/or flavoured with various agents normally used for this purpose. Generally, the active substances are present in oral dosage forms of this kind in concentrations ranging from about 0.5 % by weight to about 90 % by weight, based on the total composition, in amounts sufficient to produce the desired dosage units. Other suitable dosage forms for the active substances include formulations for controlled release and devices which are well known to the specialists in the field.

Preferably, the two active substances are presented in a delayed-release formulation.

The invention is also suitable for the treatment of so-called "chronic abacterial benign prostatic hyperplasia".

According to the invention, the combination of the two active substances is suitable
5 for both short-term and long-term therapy of benign prostatic hyperplasia.

According to the invention, the expression long-term therapy denotes a medical application of the combination of the two active substances in one formulation for at least 3 months or more.

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The combination according to the invention appears to be especially suitable for treating a particularly enlarged prostate.